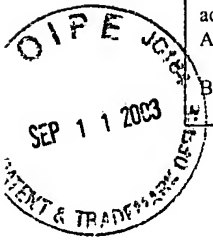


1732



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 9.9.03

By: Aileen C. Mauland

RECEIVED  
SEP 11 2003  
GROUP 1700

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 21630-000900US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the application of:

MICHAEL V. CHOBOTOV

Application No.: 10/029,570

Filed: December 20, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR SHAPE FORMING  
ENDOVASCULAR GRAFT  
MATERIAL

Examiner: M. Fontaine

Art Unit: 1732

10/7/03  
10/9/03

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the references below, also listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449. A copy of each is also enclosed.

The following U.S. Patents are set forth below by issue date.

- AA. U.S. Patent 4,201,144 issued on May 6, 1980 to Manabe et al.
- AB. U.S. Patent 4,229,838 issued on October 28, 1980 to Mano.
- AC. U.S. Patent 4,386,566 issued on June 7, 1983 to Moss.
- AD. U.S. Patent 4,731,073 issued on March 15, 1988 to Robinson.
- AE. U.S. Patent 5,197,976 issued on March 30, 1993 to Herweck et al.
- AF. U.S. Patent 5,447,152 issued on September 5, 1995 to Kohsai et al.
- AG. U.S. Patent 5,476,506 issued on December 19, 1995 to Lunn.
- AH. U.S. Patent 5,522,881 issued on June 4, 1996 to Lentz.

- AI. U.S. Patent 5,527,353 issued on June 18, 1996 to Schmitt.
- AJ. U.S. Patent 5,556,414 issued on September 17, 1996 to Turi.
- AK. U.S. Patent 5,556, 426 issued on September 17, 1996 to Popadiuk et al.
- AL. U.S. Patent 5,607,478 issued on March 4, 1997 to Lentz et al.
- AM. U.S. Patent 5,609,624 issued on March 11, 1997 to Kalis.
- AN. U.S. Patent 5,628,782 issued on May 13, 1997 to Myers et al.
- AO. U.S. Patent 5,628,786 issued on May 13, 1997 to Banas et al.
- AP. U.S. Patent 5,641,373 issued on June 24, 1997 to Shannon et al.
- AQ. U.S. Patent 5,667,523 issued on September 16, 1997 to Bynon et al.
- AR. U.S. Patent 5,716,395 issued on February 10, 1998 to Myers et al.
- AS. U.S. Patent 5,718,973 issued on February 17, 1998 to Lewis et al.
- AT. U.S. Patent 5,789,047 issued on August 4, 1998 to Sasaki et al.
- AU. U.S. Patent 5,871,538 issued February 16, 1999 to Dereume.
- AV. U.S. Patent 5,931,865 issued August 3, 1999 to Silverman et al.
- AW. U.S. Patent 5,944,750 issued August 31, 1999 to Tanner et al.
- AX. U.S. Patent 5,961,545 issued October 5, 1999 to Lentz et al.
- AY. U.S. Patent 5,993,489 issued November 30, 1999 Lewis et al.
- AZ. U.S. Patent 6,004,348 issued December 21, 1999 to Banas et al.
- BA. U.S. Patent 6,121,042 issued on September 19, 2000 to Peterson et al.
- BB. U.S. Patent 6,143,022 issued on November 7, 2000 to Shull et al.
- BC. U.S. Patent 6,149,681 issued on November 21, 2000 to Houser et al.
- BD. U.S. Patent 6,187,054 issued February 13, 2001 to Colone et al.
- BE. U.S. Patent 6,214,039 issued April 10, 2001 to Banas et al.
- BF. U.S. Patent 6,245,099 issued June 12, 2001 to Edwin et al.
- BG. U.S. Patent 6,245,100 issued June 12, 2001 to Davila et al.
- BH. U.S. Patent 6,264,684 issued July 24, 2001 to Banas et al.
- BI. U.S. Patent 6,267,834 issued July 31, 2001 to Shannon et al.
- BJ. U.S. Patent 6,280,467 issued on August 28, 2001 to Leonhardt.
- BK. U.S. Patent 6,296,661 issued on October 2, 2001 to Davila et al.
- BL. U.S. Patent 6,306,164 issued on October 23, 2001 to Kujawski.

- BM. U.S. Patent 6,312,458 issued on November 6, 2001 to Golds.
- BN. U.S. Patent 6,312,462 issued on November 6, 2001 to McDermott et al.
- BO. U.S. Patent 6,319,279 issued on November 20, 2001 to Shannon et al.
- BP. U.S. Patent 6,344,055 issued on February 5, 2002 Shukov.
- BQ. U.S. Patent 6,357,104 issued on March 19, 2002 to Myers.
- BR. U.S. Patent 6,361,637 issued on March 26, 2002 to Martin et al.
- BS. U.S. Patent 6,364,904 issued on April 2, 2002 to Smith.
- BT. U.S. Patent 6,368,347 issued on April 9, 2002 to Maini et al.
- BU. U.S. Patent 6,398,803 issued on June 4, 2002 to Layne et al.
- BV. U.S. Patent 6,402,779 issued on June 11, 2002 to Colone et al.
- BW. U.S. Patent 6,425,855 issued on July 30, 2002 to Tomonto.
- BX. U.S. Patent 6,428,571 issued on August 6, 2002 to Lentz et al.
- BY. U.S. Patent 6,443,981 issued to September 3, 2002 to Colone et al.
- BZ. U.S. Patent 6,451,047 issued on September 17, 2002 to McCrea et al.
- CA. U.S. Patent 6,540,780 issued on April 1, 2003 to Zilla et al.
- CB. U.S. Patent 6,547,814 issued on April 15, 2003 to Edwin et al.
- CC. U.S. Patent 6,547,815 issued on April 15, 2003 to Myers.
- CD. U.S. Patent 6,558,414 issued on May 6, 2003 to Layne.

The following U.S. Patent Publications are set forth below by publication date:

- CE. U.S. Patent Publication 2001/002370 published on September 20, 2001 to  
Smith et al.
- CF. U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0036522 published on November 1, 2001 to  
Hanada et al.
- CG. U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0039446 published on November 8, 2001 to  
Edwin et al.
- CH. U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0049550 published December 6, 2001 to  
Martin et al.
- CI. U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0053929 published on December 20, 2001 to  
Vonesh et al.

CJ. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0002397 published on January 3, 2002 to Martin et al.

CK. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0026231 published on February 28, 2002 to Shannon et al.

CL. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0032408 published on March 14, 2004 to Parker et al.

CM. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0040236 published on April 4, 2002 to Lau et al.

CN. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0040237 published on April 4, 2002 to Lentz et al.

CO. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0045931 published on April 18, 2002 to Sogard et al.

CP. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0055768 published on May 9, 2002 to Hess et al.

CQ. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0099435 published on July 25, 2002 to Stinson.

CR. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0111667 published on August 15, 2002 to Girton et al.

CS. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0138129 published on September 26, 2002 to Armstrong et al.

CT. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0156521 published on October 24, 2002 to Ryan et al.

CU. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0173836 published on November 21, 2002 to Pinchuk.

CV. U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0006528 published on January 9, 2003 to Edwin et al.

CW. U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0009211 published on January 9, 2003 to DiCarlo.

CX. U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0097174 published on May 22, 2003 to Henderson.

The following international patent publications are set forth by approximate publication date:

- CY. International Patent Publication No. WO 95/05277 published on February 23, 1995.
- CZ. International Patent Publication No. WO 96/33066 published on October 24, 1996.
- DA. International Patent Publication No. WO 97/27820 published on August 7, 1997.
- DB. International Patent Publication No. WO 97/32714 published on September 12, 1997.
- DC. International Patent Publication No. WO 98/38947 published on September 11, 1998.
- DD. International Patent Publication No. WO 99/00073 published on January 7, 1999.
- DE. International Patent Publication No. WO 00/42947 published on July 27, 2000.
- DF. International Patent Publication No. WO 00/45741 published August 10, 2000.
- DG. International Patent Publication No. WO 01/01886 published on January 11, 2001.
- DH. International Patent Publication No. WO 01/01887 published on January 11, 2001.
- DI. International Patent Publication No. WO 01/15633 published on March 8, 2001.
- DJ. International Patent Publication No. WO 01/28456 published on April 26, 2001.
- DK. International Patent Publication No. WO 01/52771 published on July 26, 2001.

- DL. European Patent No. 821,648 granted on September 19, 2001.
- DM. European Patent No. 877,582 granted on October 16, 2002.
- DN. International Patent Publication No. WO 02/100454 published on December 19, 2002.
- DO. International Patent Publication No. WO 03/003946 published on January 16, 2003.
- DP. European Patent No. 1,148,843 granted on April 16, 2003.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Applicant believes that the invention as claimed is patentable over the above references taken alone or in any combination. However, Applicant reserves the right to demonstrate that the claimed invention was made prior to any one or more of the above-identified references. No inference should be drawn as to the pertinence of the references based on the order in which they are presented.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review the foregoing references to make their own determination of the patentability of the present invention and that the references be made of record in the file of this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the filing date, but prior to the mailing of the first substantive Office Action.

Although no fee is believed to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessitated by this transmittal to Townsend and Townsend Deposit Account No. 20-1430.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9/8/03

By: Craig P. Wong  
Craig P. Wong  
Reg. No. 45,231

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Telephone: (206) 467-9600  
Telefax: (415) 576-0300